Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 6

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers had ideal conditions to harvest corn and soybeans during most of the week, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Rain late in the week halted field activities in some areas, but many farmers were harvesting corn and soybeans again during the weekend. The best progress for corn harvest is in the southwestern region of the state. The best progress for soybean harvest is in the central district. Both corn and soybean harvest are about 5 days behind average. Harvest of seed corn continued. Tillage of soils, spreading fertilizer and seeding of winter wheat made good progress last week.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.4 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Corn **condition** is rated 27 percent good to excellent compared with 27 percent last week and 78 percent last year at this time. Eighty-five percent of the corn crop is **mature** compared with 93 percent last year and 95 percent for the 5-year average. By region, 81 percent of the corn acreage is mature (safe from frost) in the north, 86 percent in the central regions and 89 percent in the south. Twenty-one percent of the corn acreage is **harvested** compared with 30 percent last year and 27 percent for the 5-year average. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging 22 percent.

Soybean **condition** is rated 32 percent good to excellent compared with 31 percent last week and 75 percent a year earlier. Ninety-two percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 97 percent last year and 98 percent for the average. By area, 94 percent of the soybean acreage is shedding leaves in the north, 92 percent in the central regions and 91 percent in the south. Seventy-six percent of the soybean acreage is **mature** compared with 85 percent last year and 87 percent for the average. Thirty percent of the soybean acreage is **harvested** compared with 40 percent last year and 44 percent for the average. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging about 13 percent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 8 percent good, 30 percent fair, 33 percent poor and 29 percent very poor. Twenty-seven percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is seeded compared with 24 percent last year and 26 percent for the average. **Tobacco** harvest is 93 percent complete compared with 98 percent last year and 92 percent for the average. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
		Percent		
Corn Mature	85	74	93	95
Corn Harvested	21	14	30	27
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	92	82	97	98
Soybeans Mature	76	52	85	87
Soybeans Harvested	30	10	40	44
Winter Wheat Planted	27	8	24	26
Winter Wheat Emerged	5	1	4	5
Tobacco Harvested	93	88	98	92

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			Percent		
Corn	18	24	31	25	2
Soybean	14	19	35	29	3
Pasture	29	33	30	8	0

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	10	14	2
Short	30	29	15
Adequate	56	50	74
Surplus	4	7	9
Subsoil			
Very Short	24	27	7
Short	42	43	24
Adequate	34	29	66
Surplus	0	1	3
Days Suitable	5.4	5.2	6.0

CONTACT INFORMATION

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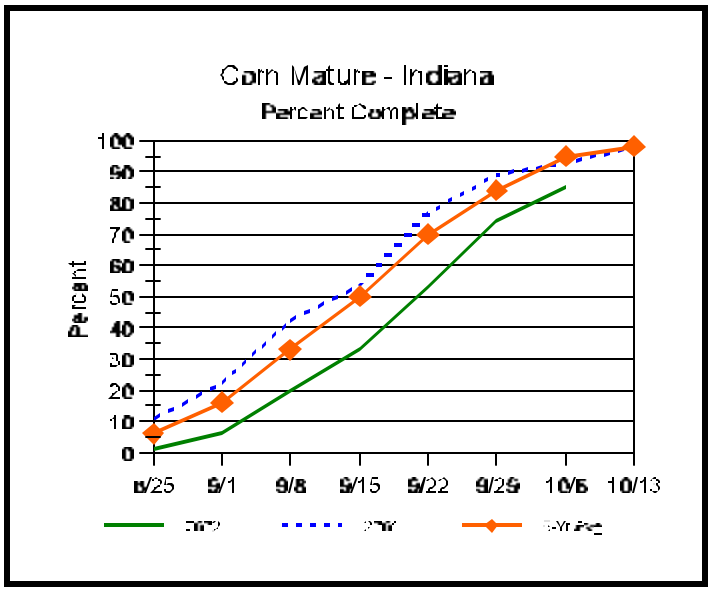
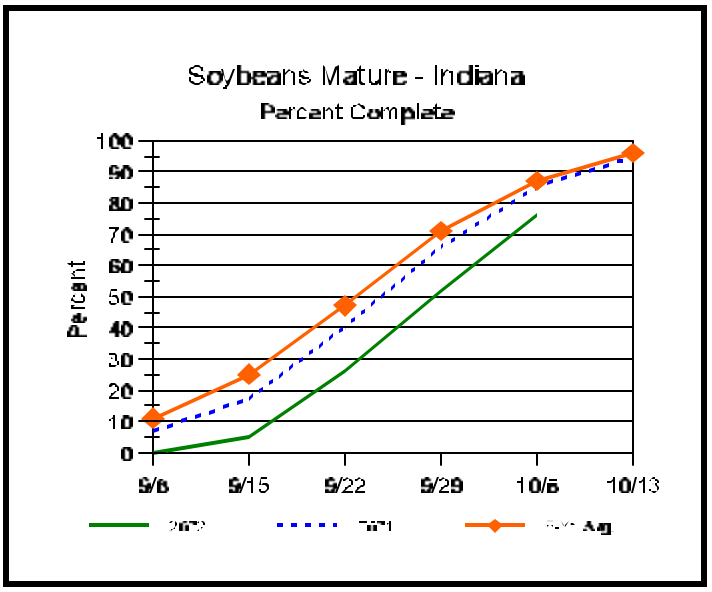
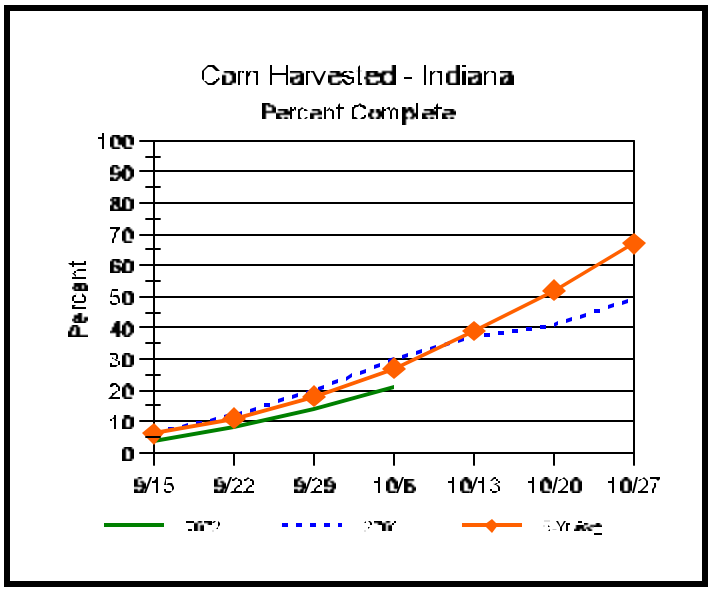
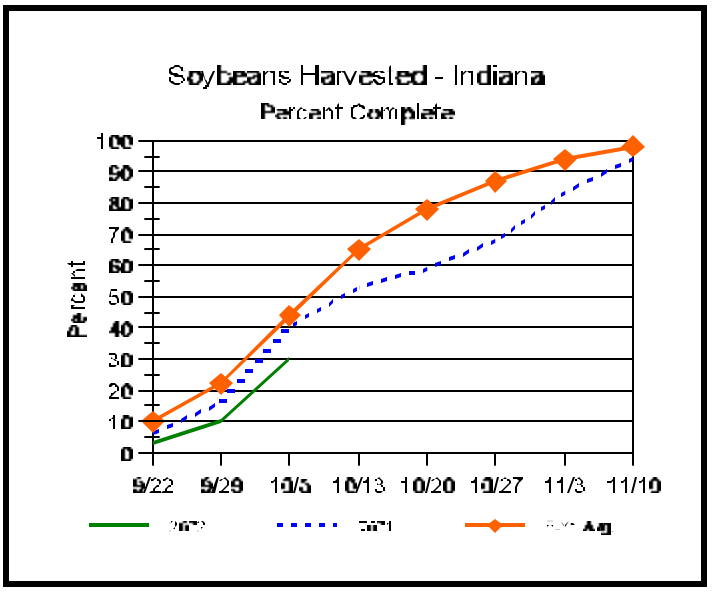
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Crop Progress









Other Agricultural Comments And News

Wheat Will Make a 'Stand' in Conditions Other Crops Abhor

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Wheat can withstand conditions other commodity crops find intolerable, including moisture deficiencies and late planting. What it can't stand are pests and saturated soils.

Farmers planting soft red winter wheat in Indiana this fall should avoid placing their crops at risk of Hessian fly damage. They also should stay away from poor-draining fields and carefully monitor wheat crops for disease-carrying aphids, said Ellsworth Christmas, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service wheat specialist.

"We recommend farmers wait to plant wheat until after the Hessian fly-free date, which comes in late September in far northern Indiana counties and Oct. 9 or 10 in Posey County in extreme southern Indiana," Christmas said. "They also should be concerned about aphids. Last fall was warm, and although wheat was planted after the fly-free date, there was a lot of aphid activity after the wheat emerged. As a result, we had a serious barley yellow dwarf problem."

The Hessian fly can cause plant stunting, winter-kill and reduced yields. Barley yellow dwarf, a virus, leads to plant discoloration and abnormal growth.

Wheat would rather receive too little water than too much. Wet soils predispose wheat to heaving, where plants are pushed out of the ground when variations in temperature first freeze and then thaw out the soil, Christmas said.

"Wheat does not like a wet soil," he said. "It will winter-kill in low areas in the field, particularly if you have too much standing water.

"The other problem you might have with these same soils is heaving in the spring. So site selection is very important.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday October 6, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2002 thru October 6, 2002				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	89	42	70	+11	0.19	1		18.72	-3.90	70	3311	+222
Valparaiso_AP_I	86	46	69	+12	0.82	2		18.85	-5.88	68	3314	+493
Wanatah	87	46	68	+12	0.74	2	75	19.28	-4.57	73	3125	+436
Wheatfield	86	47	69	+13	1.40	1		23.32	+0.23	56	3186	+440
Winamac	85	44	68	+12	0.35	3	64	21.14	-1.80	67	3235	+405
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	85	44	68	+10	0.49	2		19.76	-3.80	71	3102	+124
South_Bend	85	47	69	+12	0.82	2		16.91	-5.97	66	3287	+496
Young_America	87	45	70	+13	0.47	1		22.94	+0.69	60	3349	+420
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	83	41	67	+11	0.25	1	65	20.06	-2.26	65	3054	+391
Fort_Wayne	84	42	69	+11	0.47	1		21.38	+1.00	60	3320	+392
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	85	46	69	+9	0.53	1		30.90	+5.15	64	3251	-58
Perrysville	88	46	71	+12	0.68	2	72	28.94	+4.85	64	3422	+346
Spencer_Ag	86	46	70	+12	0.60	2		32.62	+6.85	66	3497	+397
Terre_Haute_AFB	87	44	70	+11	0.29	1		34.12	+9.81	64	3715	+431
W_Lafayette_6NW	88	45	70	+13	0.30	1	69	26.35	+3.70	73	3373	+457
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	85	46	70	+11	0.61	1		24.98	+2.30	68	3720	+466
Greenfield	85	46	70	+11	0.54	1		32.73	+7.96	68	3512	+382
Indianapolis_AP	85	48	70	+11	0.68	1		23.67	+0.99	61	3855	+601
Indianapolis_SE	85	42	69	+10	0.57	1		28.29	+5.15	58	3506	+257
Tipton_Ag	85	45	69	+12	0.49	1	74	23.24	+0.15	64	3233	+408
East Central (6)												
Farmland	85	42	69	+13	0.55	2	65	21.23	-1.16	65	3325	+568
New_Castle	83	45	68	+11	0.57	1		24.42	+0.71	57	3033	+207
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	88	46	72	+11	0.77	2		25.36	+2.44	51	4320	+546
Freelandville	86	46	71	+10	0.56	1		28.67	+4.80	53	3926	+533
Shoals	87	46	70	+10	0.62	1		27.07	+1.32	52	3799	+508
Stendal	86	48	71	+11	0.85	1		29.19	+3.60	52	4104	+550
Vincennes_5NE	88	45	72	+12	0.69	1	69	32.99	+9.12	63	4025	+632
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	83	47	69	+10	0.74	4		28.99	+3.06	59	3884	+617
Oolitic	84	44	68	+9	0.82	1	70	29.45	+4.80	63	3694	+555
Tell_City	88	49	71	+9	0.38	1		28.21	+2.02	46	4402	+750
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	86	43	69	+12	0.43	2		25.08	+1.22	59	3785	+805
Milan_5NE	84	46	69	+11	0.59	2		32.19	+8.33	70	3406	+426
Scottsburg	89	47	70	+10	0.70	1		30.43	+5.87	60	3714	+335

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

Select a well-drained site —– that is where wheat will perform best. If the soil is a bit on the droughty side, even better, because it will perform better than most other crops under those kinds of conditions."

Stand establishment is crucial before the onset of winter, Christmas said. While it is not imperative that wheat be planted in the traditional September-October period, germination is essential for vernalization.

"For best results, we like to see wheat planted as soon after the fly-free date as possible," he said. "But you can plant wheat quite late and still have a successful crop.

"This past year there were a lot of fields planted in early-to mid-November, with good success, mainly because we had an open fall —– it was warm and wheat was able to grow and get well established. From the standpoint of the plant itself, all it needs to do is germinate in the fall. It does not have to become a full-grown plant before it goes into the winter months."

Christmas offered other tips for wheat growers:

• Choose wheat varieties with a comprehensive disease resistance package, with yield potential a secondary concern. Purdue Extension Bulletin B814 can help with the selection process. The publication, "Performance of Public and Private Small Grains in Indiana, 2002," can be downloaded online.

• Plant wheat with a no-till drill into soybean residue, if following a soybean crop. If planting wheat after corn, chopping the stalks before seeding acres might be necessary.

• Consider applying a burndown herbicide to control winter annual weeds in soybean fields being planted to wheat.

• Determine soil pH. Wheat prefers a non-acid soil, with a pH of at least 6.0 and, preferably, 6.5. Also, apply phosphorus and nitrogen, as needed.

• Refrain from planting wheat in the same field two consecutive years. Second-year wheat crops are susceptible to take-all, a fungus that causes extensive root rot and premature plant death.

• Decide yield goal and calculate the seeding rate accordingly.

"If your yield goal is in the 75-80 bushel range, I would plant 35 seeds per square foot, and probably plant them at a depth approaching 1.5 inches," Christmas said. "An inch and a quarter is an excellent depth, but you shouldn't plant any more shallow than 1 inch."

Indiana farmers produced 17.2 million bushels of soft red winter wheat this past summer, down 32 percent from 2001. Average yield was 52 bushels per acre.

Soft red winter wheat is used in cookies, cakes and similar products.

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Related Web site:

Purdue University Agronomy Extension Small Grains Management

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